

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**AUTOMATIC BANDWIDTH CONTROL FOR FILE SERVERS WITH A
VARIABLE PRIORITY CLIENT BASE**

A server automatically allocates all bandwidth in proportion to current users' priorities, then continues to track the rate at which information is actually sent to users, which reflects the current connections between the server and the users. When any client is not utilizing the bandwidth allotted them, the allocation is reduced to the actual usage and unused bandwidth is redistributed, in the same ratio as the initial allocation of bandwidth, to any clients that are using all allocated bandwidth. The server continues to monitor usage and to correct allocations frequently.

Additionally, a client whose time has been cut can incrementally regain their allocations by taking bandwidth away from users who have gained thereby. Thus, a decreased allocation can be recovered if conditions improve. This scheme provides that the server will be optimally used and maximally efficient.